

# Interdisciplinary term project in the Humanities

## Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences

Achaeology (411 pages)

Astronomy (0 pages)

Biology (5 291 pages)

Botany (2 616 pages)

Cosmology (111 pages)

Electrical Engineering (164 pages)

Literary Studies (1 126 pages)

Meteorology (2 100 pages)

Microbiology (1 495 pages)

Mycology (588 pages)

Performance Studies (354 pages)

Philosophy (852 pages)

Politologi (95 pages)

Veterinary Science (19 pages)

Språkvetenskap (964 pages)

Tšimbako roodiba (365 pages)



# FUNDING AND RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

- Grant from The Future Foundation of Faculty of Arts of University of Helsinki 2015: enables four months of full-time termwork (two research doctors) and organization of a seminar on the topic
- Grant from The Cultural Foundation of Finland 2015: enables sixteen months of concurrent termwork (four researchers) and real interdisciplinary teamwork

The interdisciplinary term project is part of the Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences (located in Department of Finnish, Finno-Ugrian and Scandinavian Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Helsinki which provides an active research environment, technical support and resources.

[http://tieteentermipankki.fi/wiki/Monitietainen\\_termity%C3%B6](http://tieteentermipankki.fi/wiki/Monitietainen_termity%C3%B6)



# GOALS

- The goal of the project is to map and analyze common concepts of the humanities and document the results to an Open Access-database Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences (<http://tieteentermipankki.fi/wiki/Termipankki:Etusivu>)
- A central form of teamwork is to draft definitions and explanations of the common concepts. The work includes the mapping and analysis of current uses of the terms and their conceptual history, providing cross-references between different areas of research. Thus the project advances interdisciplinarity in a very practical way.
- The OA-platform Semantic MediaWiki enables collective writing and co-operative editing of contents. The larger goal of the project is to integrate the interdisciplinary termwork as part of the practices of studies, especially doctoral studies in the humanities.



# DISCIPLINES

The project, starting in 2015, includes four disciplines which have many important concepts in common. Demarcation of these concepts with respect to disciplines is useful for the needs of the database and for analyzing the concepts. It is typical for terms in the humanities to have a family resemblance – the same concepts may have various senses in different disciplines.

- **Philosophy** started in the bank in spring 2014 and includes, in addition to philosophical terminology, a lot of general terminology of science and methodology. The termwork is performed in active co-operation with Logos-encyclopedia, a digital Finnish encyclopedia of philosophy (<http://filosofia.fi/ensyklopedia>).
- **Literary studies** is the most advanced discipline regarding termwork involved in the project. It started in the bank in October 2013 and it is based on a modified and updated version of a dictionary of literary studies by Yrjö Hosiainluoma.
- **Aesthetics** is currently a part of philosophy in the bank, but it will evolve into an independent discipline during the project. It is related to not only to philosophy, but also to research of the arts and environmental sciences.
- **Semiotics** is a methodological science which is widely applied in social and cultural sciences and in applied sciences, such as in military and socio-economic planning sciences and in natural sciences, such as biology and health sciences. During the project semiotics will evolve into an independent discipline in the bank (currently it is classified under philosophy).



# IMPLEMENTATION

- In the humanities, there is often a "family resemblance" between terms of different disciplines: the same terms can signify different things in different disciplines. The project maps and analyzes these differences through interdisciplinary teamwork.
- The result of this activity creates a significant addition to the Term bank. The users can help in the process, as registered users can comment the term pages and suggest completion of termpages.
- In autumn 2015, the project members also act as teachers in an interdisciplinary terminology course organized by the Term bank.
- The researchers in the project meet regularly in autumn 2015 in order to discuss the terms which have interdisciplinary dimensions.



# S E M I N A R

- From January 2015 onwards, the project starts a new form of activity, a monthly seminar of multidisciplinary termwork.
- In the meeting, discussion on multidisciplinary terms is conducted with a special emphasis on the practical termwork in the Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences.
- Each meeting has one of two theme concepts, which are discussed in terms of their conceptual history, related concepts, translation, etc. The results of the discussion are integrated to the existing term entries and creation of new ones.
- The meetings of the seminar are open for all. Also, experts from different fields are invited to the meetings to initialize discussion. The meetings are documented in a memorandum publicly available in the web-page of the project.
- During the spring term 2015, the theme concepts have been *performance, representation, intentionality, meaning, discourse and text*.



# RESEARCHERS

The following researchers are involved in the project in 2015, supported by groups of experts in each discipline:

- Juuso-Ville Gustafsson, MA, University of Turku (Semiotics, work period September-December 2015)
- Tiina Käkelä-Puumala, Ph. D., University of Helsinki (Literary studies, work period February, August-December 2015)
- Markku Roinila, Ph. D., University of Helsinki, (Philosophy, work period March-April & September-December 2015)
- Janne Vanhanen, Ph. D., University of Helsinki (Aesthetics, September-December 2015)



# STEERING GROUP OF THE PROJECT

Pirkko Koski, Professor emerita (Theatre research)

Aino Kukkonen, Ph. D. (Theatre research)

Lea Laitinen, Professor emerita (Finnish language)

Tiina Onikki-Rantajääskö, Professor (Finnish Language,  
Director, Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences)

Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen, Adjunct professor, Academy research  
fellow (Philosophy, Semiotics)

Kaarina Pitkänen-Heikkilä, Adjunct Professor (Research  
coordinator, Bank of Finnish Terminology in Arts and Sciences)

Heta Pyrhönen, Professor (Literary studies), Director, Doctoral  
programme of literary studies, philosophy, research of arts and  
social sciences)

Sami Syrjämäki, Ph. D. (Philosophy), Coordinator (Doctoral  
programme of literary studies, philosophy, research of arts and  
social sciences)





# THE FUTURE

- There is room for expansion of the project to other humanities – for example gender studies, history, social sciences, psychology etc.
- The continuation of the termwork performed now – for example terms related to certain scholars or schools of thought, expansion of explanations, complementary tasks for etymologies and translations
- Utilization of the open access data with methodologies of digital humanities (big data)
- New innovations which follow from the interdisciplinary termwork (workshops, publications)
- Special questions concerning translation of terms (co-operation with translators)
- Possible joint projects and co-operation with the Faculty of Arts and with other universities

